

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-18 (Group I) without prejudice.

REMARKS

Applicant has studied the Office Action dated March 22, 2002 and has made amendments to the claims. It is submitted that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. By virtue of this amendment, claims 19-31 are pending. Claims 1-18 have been canceled without prejudice. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In response to the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121, Applicant provisionally elects for continued prosecution of the Group II claims (i.e., claims 19-31), without traverse. Thus, Applicant requests examination of claims 19-31.

To advance the prosecution of the application, claims 1-18 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant expressly reserves the right to file a divisional application with respect to these claims at a later date.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application and the claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to direct future correspondence regarding this application to the undersigned attorney at the address below.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to please call the undersigned attorney should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted.

Date: April 9, 2002

By: 

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